

COII Sequence-based Study for Population Genetic Variation of a Ground Beetle, *Scarites aterrimus* (Coleoptera: Carabidae)

Ah Rha Wang and Iksoo Kim*

College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, Chonnam National University, Gwangju 500-757, Korea

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The *Scarites aterrimus* (Coleoptera: Carabidae) dwells exclusively on coastal sandy dunes. Previously, we investigated the nation-wide magnitude and nature of genetic diversity of the species using mitochondrial COI gene and found moderate to low magnitude of sequence diversity, the presence of closely related haplotypes, and relatively high gene flow estimate. Based on these observations we concluded that the species had no historical barriers that bolster genetic subdivision and possible population decline. In this study, we additionally sequenced mitochondrial COII gene from 23 individuals collected from 9 Korean localities to confirm previous findings. Sequencing of 688 bp COII gene provided 5 haplotypes ranging in sequence divergence from 0.145% to 0.291% (1 ~ 2 bp), further confirming low sequence divergence of the species. Gene flow estimates and genetic diversity estimates also support the previous findings that there had been no historical barriers that bolster genetic subdivision.

Key words: Mitochondrial DNA, COII gene, *Scarites aterrimus*, Ground beetle, Carabid Sequence divergence, Population genetic structure

Introduction

The ground beetle, *Scarites aterrimus* (Carabidae: Coleoptera), is one of the carabids well adapted to coastal dunes (Kawakami *et al.*, 2006). Due to the habitat

diminishment population decline was concerned for the carabid beetles including *S. aterrimus* (Kim, 1980, 2003). In order to understand the nation-wide magnitude and nature of genetic diversity of the species as a first step to establish long-term conservation strategy, we previously investigated the sequence divergence, geographic variation, and population genetic structure of the species collected from several sandy beaches of Korean coasts (East Sea, West Sea, and South Sea) and a remote island Jeju (Wang *et al.*, 2011). From the sequencing of a total of 24 *S. aterrimus* individuals collected over nine sandy dunes belonging to four Korean provinces resulted in moderate to low magnitude of sequence diversity, the presence of closely related haplotypes, and relatively high gene flow estimate.

In this study, we additionally sequenced another mitochondrial gene, COII, to confirm the previous findings from COI gene sequence, because COII gene sequence also is often utilized for the question of population genetic diversity (Finn *et al.*, 2007), species identification (Oshaghi, 2007), gene flow (Marquez and Krafur, 2002), and population genetic structure (Krafur, 2002).

Materials and Methods

Sampling, DNA extraction, primer, PCR, and sequencing

Samples used in this study are identical to those used in Wang *et al.* (2011), wherein a total of 24 individuals collected from 9 Korean localities were employed, excluding one individual (Fig. 1 and Table 1). Total DNA that was extracted using the Wizard Genomic DNA Purification Kit (Promega, USA) was used for amplification of a full-length mitochondrial COII gene, corresponding to 688 bp in the *S. aterrimus*. Primers for forward and reverse directions were designed at tRNA^{Leu} and tRNA^{Lys} gene, respectively, from the alignment of four complete mitochondrial genomes of Adephaga in Coleoptera (Sheffield *et al.*,

*To whom the correspondence addressed

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Chonnam National University, Gwangju 500-757, Korea.

Tel: +82-62-530-2073; Fax: +82-62-530-2079;

E-mail: ikkim81@chonnam.ac.kr

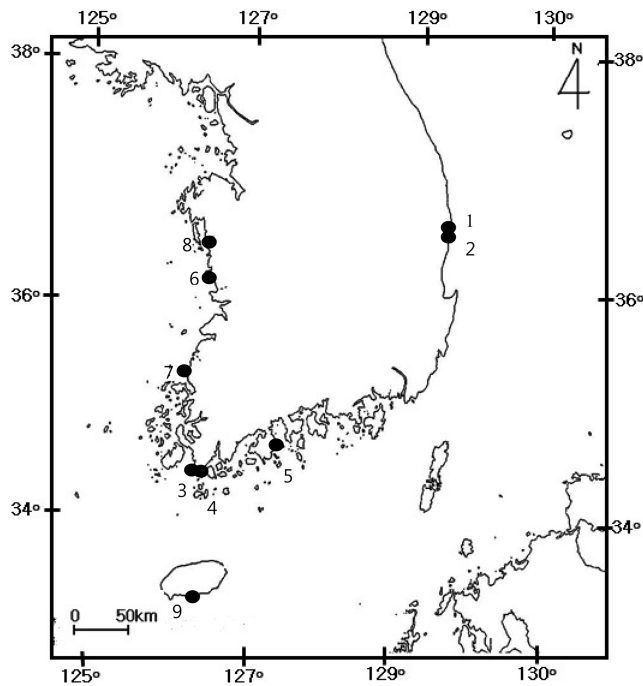


Fig. 1. Sampling location of *Scarites aterrimus* in Korea. General locality names are as follows: 1, Goraebul, Gyeongsangbukdo; 2, Duckcheon, Gyeongsangbukdo; 3, Songji, Jeollanamdo; 4, Buldeung, Jeollanamdo; 5, Namryul, Jeollanamdo; 6, Sohwang, Chungcheongnamdo; 7, Songseok, Jeollanamdo; 8, Jangpo, Chungcheongnamdo; and 9, Seowipo, Jeju.

2008; Carmeron *et al.*, 2009; Song *et al.*, 2010; Pons *et al.*, 2010). Internal primers were designed from *S. aterrimus* after a portion of COII was sequenced. The primer information is listed in Table 2. After an initial denaturation step at 94°C for 7 min, a 35-cycle amplification (94°C for 1 min, 48–53°C for 1 min, and 72°C for 1 min) was conducted. The final extension step was continued for 7 min at 72°C. To confirm the successful DNA amplification, electrophoresis was carried out using 0.5× TAE buffer on 0.5% agarose gel. The PCR product was then purified using PCR purification Kit (QIAGEN, Germany). DNA sequencing was conducted using the ABI PRISM® BigDye® Terminator ver. 3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit with an ABI 3100 Genetic Analyzer (PE Applied Biosystems, USA). All products were sequenced from both strands.

Sequence and phylogenetic analyses

Sequence alignment was performed using CLUSTAL X programs (ver. 1.8; Thompson *et al.*, 1997). When homologous sequences from two individuals differed by ≥ one nucleotide base, the sequences were considered as different haplotypes. Haplotype designations were applied to new sequences as they were discovered (*i.e.*, COISA01, COISA02, COISA03 and so forth). Phylogenetic analysis was performed by maximum-parsimony

Table 1. A list of trapping localities, animal numbers, mitochondrial COII haplotypes of *Scarites aterrimus*

Collecting locality (no. of individuals)	Collection date	Animal number	COII haplotype	Genbank accession number
1. Sand dune of Goraebul, Byeonggok-ri	2009.07.22	SA3570	COISA01	JQ780069
Gyeongsangbuk-do province (3)	2009.07.22	SA3571	COISA01	JQ780070
	2009.07.22	SA3572	COISA01	JQ780071
2. Sand dune of Dukcheon, Dukcheon-ri	2009.05.24	SA3573	COISA01	JQ780072
Gyeongsangbuk-do province (1)				
3. Sand dune of Songji, Songho-ri	2008.07.22	SA3574	COISA02	JQ780073
Jeollanam-do province (1)				
4. Sand dune of Buldeung, Tongho-ri	2008.07.22	SA3575	COISA02	JQ780074
Jeollanam-do province (2)	2009.07.23	SA3576	COISA02	JQ780075
5. Sand dune of Namryul, Namryul-ri	2009.05.23	SA3577	COISA03	JQ780076
Jeollanam-do province (3)	2009.05.23	SA3578	COISA01	JQ780077
	2009.05.23	SA3579	COISA01	JQ780078
6. Sand dune of Sohwang, Sohwang-ri	2008.07.15	SA3580	COISA01	JQ780079
Chungcheongnam-do province (6)	2008.07.15	SA3581	COISA01	JQ780080
	2009.05.22	SA3582	COISA01	JQ780081
	2009.05.22	SA3583	COISA04	JQ780082
	2009.05.22	SA3584	COISA01	JQ780083
	2009.05.22	SA3585	COISA04	JQ780084

Table 1. Continued

Collecting locality (no. of individuals)	Collection date	Animal number	COII haplotype	Genbank accession number
7. Sand dune of Songseok, Songseok-ri	2009.05.22	SA3589	COIISA01	JQ780085
Jeollanam-do province (3)	2009.05.22	SA3590	COIISA01	JQ780086
	2009.05.22	SA3591	COIISA01	JQ780087
8. Sand dune of Jangpo, Jangpo-ri	2008.07.15	SA3592	COIISA01	JQ780088
Chungcheongnam-do province (1)				
9. Sand dune of Seogwipo, Seogwipo city	2004.05.18	SA3593	COIISA05	JQ780089
Jeju-do province (3)	2004.05.18	SA3594	COIISA01	JQ780090
	2004.05.18	SA3595	COIISA01	JQ780091

Table 2. List of primers used to amplify and sequence the COII sequences of *Scarites aterrimus*

Fragment	Primer name	Sequence (5' - 3')
F1	COLCOIF1	TCTAATATGGCAGAAT- AGTG
	SA-COII-INTER- R1	ATCTAATAGTCGAAAAT- CAG
F2	SA-COII-INTER- F2	TTGAAGCTAT- GAATACTCTG
	COLCOIIR1	GACCAATACT- TGCTTTCAG

(MP) method (Fitch, 1971) using PAUP* (Phylogenetic Analysis Using Parsimony and Other Method*) ver. 4.0b10 (Swofford, 2002). Unrooted tree was prepared using an equal weighting of transitions and transversions by heuristic search. The reliability of the trees was tested by 1,000 iterations of bootstrapping (Felsenstein, 1985). In order to further scrutinize the relationships among haplotypes one-step median networks, which provide insight into probable relationships among closely related lineages was prepared (Bandelt *et al.*, 1995).

Population genetic analyses

Genetic diversity and distance were analyzed for the populations presenting more than one haplotypes. Thus, three populations (localities 5, 6, and 9) were subjected to these analyses. The maximum sequence divergence within population was obtained by extracting the estimate of unrooted pairwise distance within each population from PAUP (Swofford, 2002). Genetic distance and migration rate were estimated from mitochondrial DNA sequences and subroutines in the Arlequin ver. 3.0 (Excoffier *et al.*, 2005). Detailed methods are presented in Wang *et al.* (2011).

Results and Discussion

Sequence analysis

From 23 individuals of *S. aterrimus* collected over nine Korean localities a total of 5 haplotypes (COIISA01 – COIISA05) was obtained (Fig. 2). Four variable nucleotides were composed wholly of transitions (each two T↔C and G↔A) and only nucleotide position 118 caused amino acid replacements from His to Thr (Table 3). Pairwise comparison between pairs of haplotypes has shown sequence divergence ranging only from 0.145% to 0.291% (one ~ two nucleotides) (Table 4). This result indicates that COII gene is somewhat more conserved compared to COI gene in that COI sequence has provided ten haplotypes ranged from 0.152% to 0.912% (one ~ six nucleotides) (Wang *et al.*, 2011). With regard to distribution COIISA01 showed the widest distribution, accounting for seven of nine localities, composed of 69.6% (16 of 23) of samples utilized in this study (Table 1). Except for this haplotype the others are distributed either two (COIISA02) or one locality (COIISA03, COIISA04, and COIISA05) as a three (COIISA02) or one individual (Table 1). Concordantly to previous study by COI gene sequence, the distribution of *S. aterrimus* haplotypes can be summarized as a restricted local distribution in most haplotypes, except for one haplotype.

Phylogenetic and network analyses

Due to the limited variation among haplotypes (0.145% to 0.291%) phylogenetic relationships among 5 haplotypes are very poorly distinguished among them and the nodal support for each branch was nearly unsupported (Fig. 3). In the case of network analysis, COIISA01 was centered with the others branched off from this haplotype, evidencing “star phylogeny” (Fig. 4). Previously, such star phylogeny in the network tree was expected to be found, where widespread older haplotypes are located in the center of the network and recently derived

				30		60
COIISA01	ATGGCAACAT	GATCTAACCT	GAATCTTCAG	GACAGAGCCT	CTCCATTAAT	AGAACAATTG
COIISA02	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA03	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA04	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA05	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
				90		120
COIISA01	ACTTTCCTTC	ATGACCATAC	ATTAATAAAT	TTAACGATAA	TTACAGTATT	AGTGGGGCAT
COIISA02	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....T..
COIISA03	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA04	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA05	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
				150		180
COIISA01	GTAATATTAA	CACTGACCTA	TAATAAGAAT	ATTAATCGCT	ATCTTCTAGA	AGGACAATTA
COIISA02	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA03	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA04	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....T..
COIISA05	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....A..
				210		240
COIISA01	ATTGAAGTAA	TTTGAACATA	TCTTCCTGCT	ATTACACTTA	TTTTTATTGC	ACTTCCATCA
COIISA02	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA03	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA04	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA05	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
				270		300
COIISA01	TTAAAATTAT	TATATTTACT	TGACGAAATT	AATAACCCCT	TAGTAACTTT	AAAATCAATT
COIISA02	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA03	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA04	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA05	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
				330		360
COIISA01	GGTCATCAAT	GATATTGAAG	CTATGAATAC	TCTGATTTTA	GAAAAACAGA	ATTTCGATTCA
COIISA02	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA03	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA04	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA05	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
				390		420
COIISA01	TACATAACAC	CTACAAATGA	ATTAAAAAAT	TCTGATTTTC	GACTATTAGA	TGTTGATAAT
COIISA02	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA03	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA04	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA05	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
				450		480
COIISA01	CGAGTAATTT	TACCATTTAA	TAGTCAAATT	CGAGTATTAG	TAACAGCTAC	TGATGTTATT
COIISA02	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA03	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA04	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA05	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
				510		540
COIISA01	CATTCATGAA	CAGTTCCTGC	CTTAGGGGTT	AAAATTGATG	CAACACCCGG	TCGGCTAAAT
COIISA02	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA03	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA04	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA05	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
				570		600
COIISA01	CAAACAAGAT	TCTTTATAAA	TCGACCAGGA	TTATTTTTTG	GACAATGTTC	AGAAATCTGT
COIISA02	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA03	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA04	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA05	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
				630		660
COIISA01	GGAGCTAACC	ACAGATTTAT	ACCTATTGCA	ATTGAAAGAG	TACCTACTAA	TATGTTTGTA
COIISA02	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA03	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA04	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
COIISA05	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
				688		
COIISA01	AAATGAATAT	CTTCAATACA	AGAAAATT			
COIISA02	.....	.....	.....
COIISA03	.....	.....	.....
COIISA04	.....	.....	.....
COIISA05	.....	.....	.....

Fig. 2. Sequencing alignment of ten five haplotypes (designed as COIISA01 – COIISA05) obtained from 688-bp of COII gene sequence from *Scarites aterrimus*. Only nucleotide positions that differ from haplotype COIISA01 are indicated.

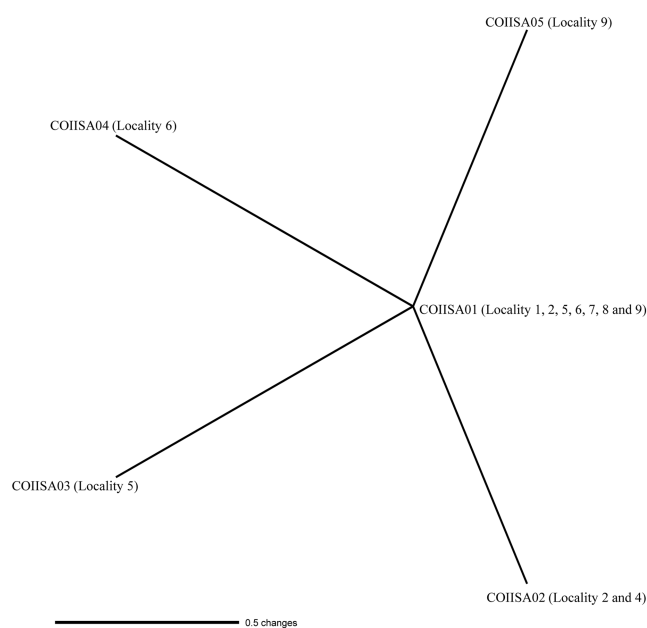
Table 3. Type of substitution in the COII sequences of *Scarites aterrimus*

Nucleotide position	Nucleotide substitution	Amino acid substitution
118	C ↔ T	CAT (His) ↔ TAT (Thr)
138	C ↔ T	
147	G ↔ A	
312	A ↔ G	

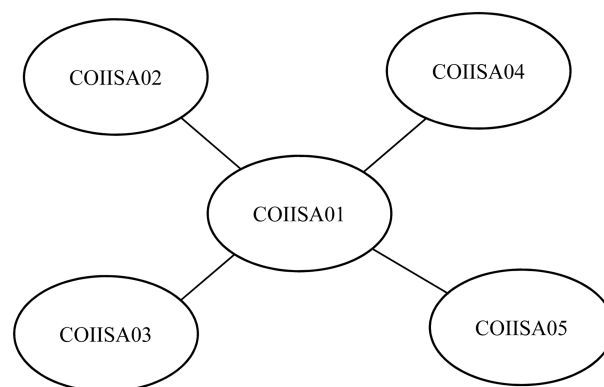
Table 4. Pairwise comparisons among five haplotypes obtained from COII gene of *Scarites aterrimus*

	1	2	3	4	5
1. COIIA01	-	0.00145	0.00145	0.00145	0.00145
2. COIIA02	1	-	0.00291	0.00291	0.00291
3. COIIA03	1	2	-	0.00291	0.00291
4. COIIA04	1	2	2	-	0.00291
5. COIIA05	1	2	2	2	-

Numbers above the diagonal are mean distance values; numbers below the diagonal are absolute distance values.

**Fig. 3.** Unrooted tree from 5 COII haplotypes of *Scarites aterrimus*. The tree was acquired via the MP method incorporated in PAUP (Phylogenetic Analysis Using Parsimony and Other) ver. 4.0b10 software (Swofford, 2002).

rare ones are stretched near the external nodes (Watterson and Guess, 1977). In this regard, the centered COIIA01 that was found in 7 of 9 localities (69.6%) (Table 1) might be the oldest haplotype and the remaining 4 haplotypes might be ones derived from

**Fig. 4.** Parsimonious one-step median networks analysis among 5 mitochondrial COII haplotypes of *Scarites aterrimus*. Each bar represents a single nucleotide difference from the neighboring haplotype.

COIIA01. This result, in turn, is interpreted that the *S. aterrimus* occurring in Korean peninsula did not experience historical biogeographic barriers that bolster genetic subdivision.

Population genetic analyses

Due to the limited samples and available haplotypes population genetic estimates were obtained only from locality 5 (Namryul), locality 6 (Sohwang), and locality 9 (Seogwipo). In a range of 0 ~ 1 in H , the sand dunes of Seogwipo (locality 9) and that of Goraebul (locality 1) was highest as 1. In terms of nucleotide diversity (π), Sohwang and Seogwipo were slightly higher than that of the remaining Namryul, but only minor difference was observed from the analysis. Previous COI-based analysis also supported higher π as 0.008105 (Wang *et al.*, 2011). As has been seen in COI-based analysis (Wang *et al.*, 2011), genetic distance (F_{ST}) and per-generation migration rates (Nm) between pairs of populations overall showed high gene flow estimates in the COII sequence.

Summarized, twenty-three individuals of *S. aterrimus* from 9 Korean localities has shown similar result obtained previously from COI gene sequence (Wang *et al.*, 2011) in that *S. aterrimus* occurring in Korean peninsula are well connected to each other with a high gene flow estimate, which indicates presence of no long-term zoogeographic barriers for the species. Comparison between two genes indicates that COI is slightly higher in sequence divergence, number of haplotypes, and resultant population estimates. For further scrutinized analysis for population perspective, further sensitive molecular marker, such as microsatellite DNA might be essential.

Table 5. Within-locality diversity estimates of *Scarites aterrimus*

Locality	SS ^a	NH ^b	H ^c	NP ^d	MSD ^e (%)	MPD ^f	π^g
1. Goraebul	3	1	0.0000	0	-	-	-
2. Dukcheon	1	1	1.0000	0	-	-	-
3. Songji	1	1	1.0000	0	-	-	-
4. Buldeung	2	1	0.0000	0	-	-	-
5. Namryul	3	2	0.6667	1	0.145	0.666667	0.000969
6. Sohwang	6	2	0.5333	1	0.145	0.533333	0.000775
7. Songseok	3	1	0.0000	0	-	-	-
8. Jangpo	1	1	1.0000	0	-	-	-
9. Seogwipo	3	2	0.6667	1	0.145	0.666667	0.000969

^aSample size^bNumber of haplotypes^cHaplotype diversity^dNumber of polymorphic sites^eMaximum sequence divergence^fMean number of pairwise differences^gNucleotide diversity

-, unavailable.

Table 6. Fixation indices (F_{ST}) and migration rate (Nm) between pairs of populations of *Scarites aterrimus*

	6	9
5. Namryul	$F_{ST} = 0.12195$ $Nm = 3.60000$	$F_{ST} = 0.0000$ $Nm = 4503599627370496.00000$
6. Sohwang	$F_{ST} = 0.12195$ $Nm = 3.60000$	
9. Seogwipo		

* $p < 0.05$.
inf, infinite.

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